

TAX MATTERS

**JUNE 11, 2009, Issue #09-23, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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- 1. TRENDING**
- 2. AS THE TASSEL TURNS**
- 3. FREE ADVERTISEMENT – SEND US YOUR BUSINESS CARD**
- 4. PUBLIC MEETINGS**
- 5. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JUNE 4, 2009 (#09-22)

- **GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS**
 - Address by Gov. Mitch Daniels concerning the problems passing a state budget
- **APPEALS PROCESS**
 - Indiana Department of Local Government Finance's Property Tax Assessment Appeals Process Fact Sheet -
<http://www.in.gov/dlcf/files/PropertyTaxAppealsProcess.pdf>

MAY 28, 2009 (#09-21)

- **VIGO COUNTY PAY 2009 TAX RATES – CERTIFIED FACTS**
 - Your property taxes to be paid in 2009 will be calculated differently than in past years. Included in that issue was the certified rate schedule, provided by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.
- **THE CONTINUING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DEBATE**
 - The Indiana Chamber of Commerce and Indiana Manufacturing Association's rebuttal to Indiana Senate Majority Caucus defending the new unemployment insurance law. Their version was "15 Facts You Need to Know About the Largest Tax Increase on Indiana Businesses in State History."
- **TWO ALTERNATIVE TAXES**
 - The FairTax and the value-added tax.

MAY 21, 2009 (#09-20)

- **THE OTHER SIDE OF LAST WEEK'S UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REPORT**
 - This week we are running an article sent by the Indiana Senate Majority Caucus through e-mail. This article includes a discussion of the 15 facts "critics apparently didn't want you to know about our efforts to make unemployment insurance work for all Hoosiers – small-business owners, industry leaders and their employees."
- **WASTE TREATMENT BID RESULTS**
 - Last Thursday, May 14th, the Board of Public Works and Safety used a reverse auction service to conduct bids on three wastewater utility pickup trucks. The auction was 1 hour and 32 minutes long.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP CITY REPORTS**
 - Pat Martin, the City Planner; and Darrell Zeck, the Director of Public Affairs attended the Neighborhood Partnership meeting held April 28, 2009.

The Taxpayers Association is a not-for-profit organization supported by membership dues. Any citizen or group of citizens in Vigo County may be a member.

1. TRENDING

When you receive your 2008 PAY 2009 tax statement, which is scheduled to be mailed to you by June 30, you will find it to be a different format than last year (which was different from the previous year). If you want a better understanding of the numbers on your statement, you should go to the Vigo County web site and click on BEACON, and then enter your last name only on the appropriate line. You will then see two or three pages of details giving you more information and revealing the components of your tax statement.

Next, you will encounter some columns called TRENDING. Trending has been practiced since 2002, but not understood by most taxpayers simply because they didn't care or realize how important trending is. Even with CAPS, your taxes can go up annually due to trending. If you are inclined to appeal your stated tax amount, trending will probably be your main cause of concern. I have an excellent 22-page document explaining the process. Since it is a statistical process involving somewhat complicated recent property sales disclosures, I am proposing that the Taxpayers Association sponsor a workshop on how trending works. If you are interested in learning the details on how trending works, please respond to this note as soon as possible. This would involve a presentation or panel discussion involving state and local officials.

E-mail address – taxtopics@aol.com

2. AS THE TASSEL TURNS

Another school year has come and gone. Many young Vigo County men and women are moving on to join the working force or pursue higher education. Once again, we have failed to graduate several of the class of 2009. The total number of graduates (unofficial) is 994. The original number of students enrolled as Freshmen in the fall of 2005 was 1340. Some have moved into the county, some have moved away, but the bottom line is that approximately 346 students failed to graduate. (A few are trying to complete their degrees through summer school enrollment.) This means that about 26% of the students failed to graduate. Are we “leaving the children behind”?

3. FREE ADVERTISEMENT – SEND US YOUR BUSINESS CARD

Send us a copy of your business card, and we will include it in the next issue of Tax Topics. Mail a copy for a better image, or e-mail a “jpeg” representation. This opportunity is open to members only.

Mailing address:
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7 S Meadows Shopping Center
Terre Haute, IN 47803

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4. PUBLIC MEETINGS

The purpose of this calendar is to encourage taxpayers to attend public meetings. Taxpaying persons working at your business or living in your neighborhood should be encouraged to attend a meeting of their choice at least once per year. The date and time for the meetings listed below are always subject to change. Organizations that are underlined have a web page that can be accessed by clicking on their respective hyperlinks. The contact person is also listed. You should call the appropriate office and confirm the date and time if you plan to attend.

Date	Time	Public Meeting	Location	Contact Info
Thur. Jun. 11	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Jun. 15	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Jun. 15	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Jun. 16	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jun. 16	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Jun. 16	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Jun. 17	9:30 am	<u>Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District</u>	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Jun. 17	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Thur. Jun. 18	2:00 pm	<u>Tree Advisory Board</u>	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Mon. Jun. 22	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jun. 22	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Jun. 22	5:30 pm	<u>Terre Haute Housing Authority</u>	2001 N. 19 th Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Jun. 22	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Jun. 23	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jun. 24	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Jun. 24	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Jun. 24	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Tue. Jun. 30	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jul. 1	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jul. 1	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Jul. 2	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375

5. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*Accept that some days you're the pigeon,
And some days you're the statue.*

END

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